

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chair Cartwright, Ranking Member Aderholt, and Ranking Member Cole:

As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS), we strongly encourage you to prioritize critical funding and resources to support community violence intervention programming. This funding is essential to support evidence-informed community-based organizations that are on the frontlines of intervening to prevent gun violence. Through this historic investment in community violence intervention initiatives, Congress will be taking a necessary step towards addressing the ongoing gun violence crisis, which has been especially harmful to communities of color and has worsened under the strains of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past year, American cities experienced historic levels of violence. Cities have long grappled with persistent gun violence in our most vulnerable and disinvested communities, and recent factors — including the COVID pandemic — have only exacerbated the problem, with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reporting more than 45,000 gun deaths in 2020, a level of gun deaths not seen for decades. Recognizing this dire situation, and understanding the critical role that community-based violence intervention programs play in combating the gun violence epidemic plaguing American communities, there is an urgent opportunity to build up existing federal funding programs and take this initial step to support communities in need.

Community-based violence prevention strategies have proven to reduce homicides and increase health and safety. Increasingly robust evidence and outcomes provide empirical evidence that strategies such as violence interruption and street outreach, hospital-based intervention programs, cognitive behavioral therapy, and trauma support, can significantly reduce violence. In fact, the National Institute of Justice has reviewed the research on these types of initiatives and rated Operation Peacekeeper in Stockton, CA and Operation Ceasefire in Boston, MA as effective and Cure Violence in Chicago, IL as promising. Other successful examples include Oakland's Gun Violence Reduction Strategy (Ceasefire) that was launched in October 2012. In 2012, there were 126 homicides and 556 non-fatal shootings. In 2017, the fifth year of the Oakland Strategy implementation, there were 72 homicides and 277 non-fatal shootings — a 46% reduction in homicides and a 49% reduction in injury reductions. There is also Atlanta's Cure Violence program that operates in 6 intown Atlanta neighborhoods which did not see an increase in homicides in 2021 unlike the rest of the city. This program will be expanding with support from Atlanta's Mayor and City Hall. Although these proven strategies have been researched and are cited in academic literature, they remain chronically underfunded at every level of government, prolonging the daily loss of life.

Therefore, to strengthen our public health infrastructure to combat gun violence and gun deaths, we will need a coordinated approach across agencies, and we respectfully request that the CJS and LHHS appropriations bills directly address this crisis and include the following meaningful down payments necessary to save lives.

In the CJS appropriation bill:

- Provide \$375 million for the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI). CVIPI is a grant program established in the FY2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act to provide dedicated federal funding to support community-based violence intervention programs, prioritizing communities with the highest number of homicides and the highest number of homicides per capita.
- Include report language directing the OJP to direct discretionary grants (e.g., Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, Project Safe Neighborhood, and Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence) to offer priority consideration for community-based violence intervention programs as well as issue formal guidance to state and local administrators of Byrne JAG formula block grants regarding the importance of funding community-based violence intervention programs, and track and publish information on the funding levels.
- Include report language directing the Office for Victims of Crime to make Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding available for gun violence victim services programs, including violence intervention programs, by providing guidance that violence intervention programs are eligible for victim assistance funding and by clearing administrative roadblocks so that VOCA funding is accessible to community-based service models that serve gun violence survivors by providing crisis response, medical and mental health care, criminal justice and legal advocacy, and housing assistance.

In the LHHS appropriation bill:

- Provide \$375 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Violence Prevention program to fund a new Community Violence Intervention Initiative. This funding will enable the CDC to build upon their existing science-based youth violence prevention efforts

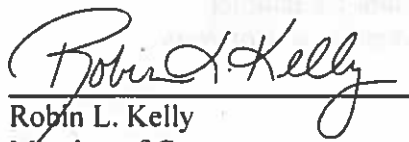
and enable the CDC to establish a public health centered grant program to support community-based programs that prevent violence, prioritizing communities with the highest number of homicides and the highest number of homicides per capita.


- Provide \$10 million to establish a resource center at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to coordinate funding opportunities across relevant agencies, oversee research into effective programs, and provide technical assistance to local Offices of Violence Prevention and community-based organizations.
- Include report language directing HHS to support community-based violence intervention programs through relevant grant programs (e.g., the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Community Mental Health Services Block Grants, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants and the Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma Program) that can be used to support people involved or at risk of being involved in gun violence.
- Include report language directing the Department of Labor to prioritize Workforce Innovation and Opportunity funding, like the Young Adult Reentry Partnership and YouthBuild, to support reintegration, transitional employment, long-term impactful positions, union positions, and living wages for systems-involved youth and older adults in cities disproportionately impacted by daily gun violence.

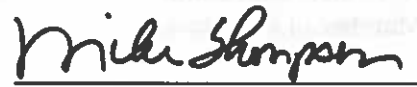
With so many communities ravaged by COVID-19 and spiking homicide rates, we earnestly hope that you will join us in securing critically important support for proven strategies that reduce violence and increase community health.

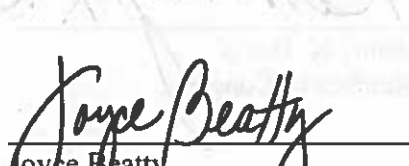
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

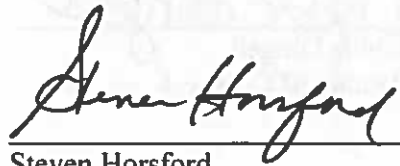
Sincerely,

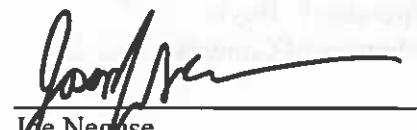

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


Lucy McBath
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

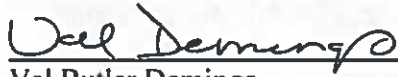

Joyce Beatty
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Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

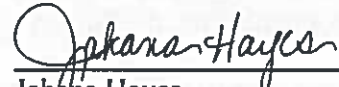

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



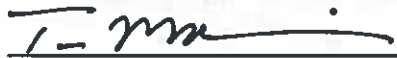
Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Val Butler Demings
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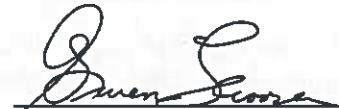
Jahana Hayes
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Tom Malinowski
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Eric Swalwell
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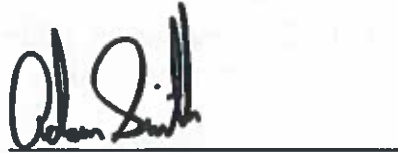
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Veronica Escobar
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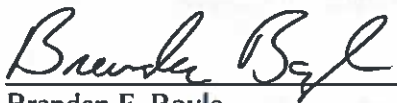
A. Donald McEachin
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Sean Casten
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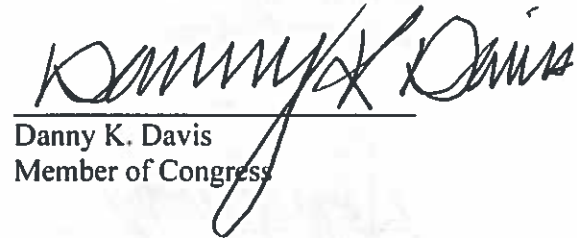
Mark DeSaulnier
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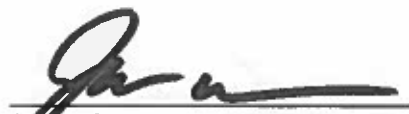
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



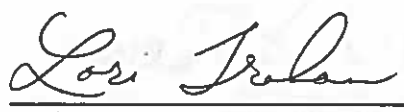
Debbie Dingell
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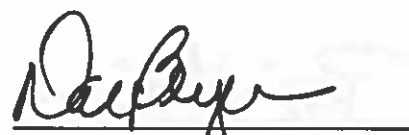
Danny K. Davis
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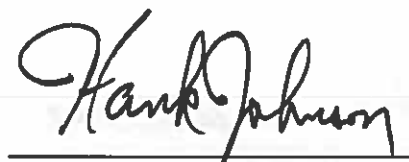
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



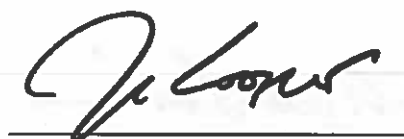
Lori Trahan
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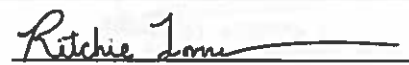
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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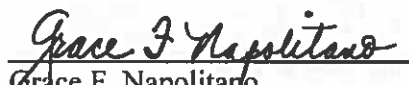
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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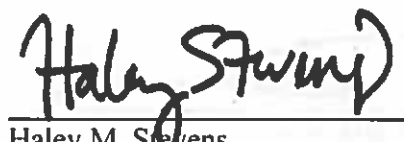
Jim Cooper
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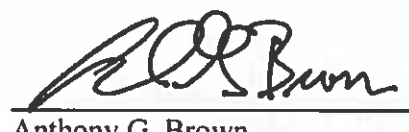
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



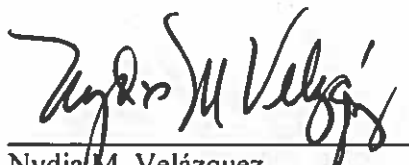
Grace F. Napolitano
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Haley M. Stevens
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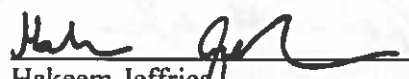
Anthony G. Brown
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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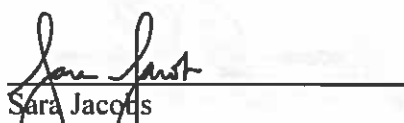
André Carson
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Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress




Katie Porter
Member of Congress



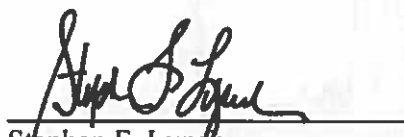
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



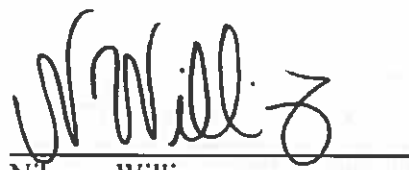
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



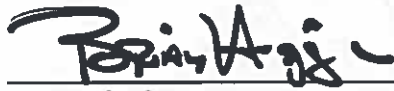
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
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Nikema Williams
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Brian Higgins
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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



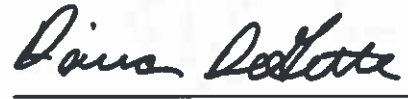
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



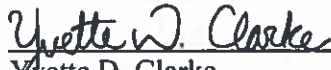
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
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Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
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Dean Phillips
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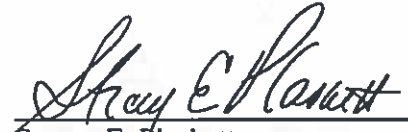
Theodore E. Deutch
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Pramila Jayapal
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Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress




Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



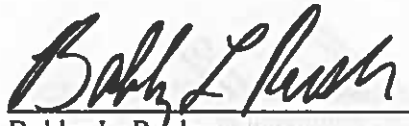
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



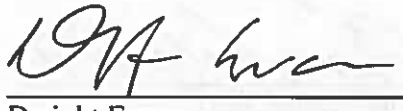
Marie Newman
Member of Congress



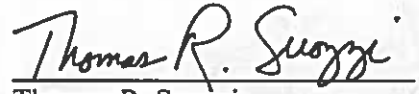
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



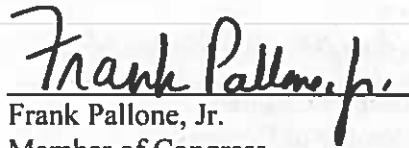
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



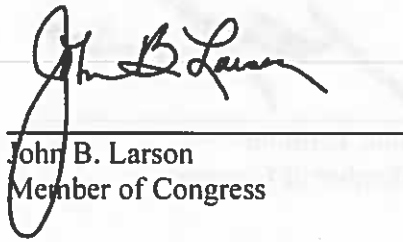
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



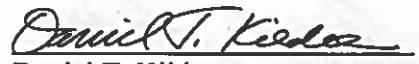
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



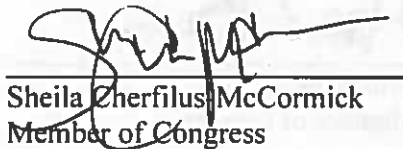
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



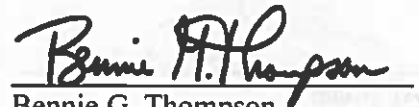
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



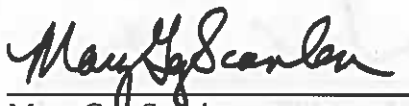
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



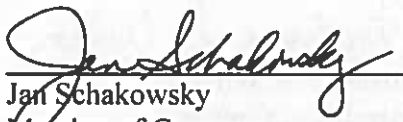
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



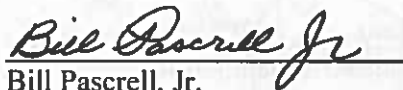
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



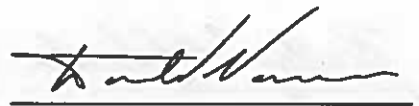
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



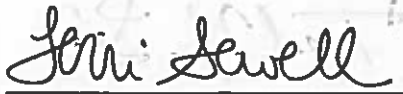
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



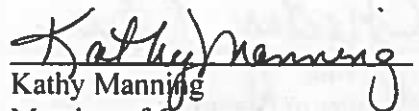
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



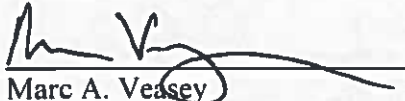
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



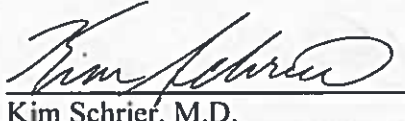
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



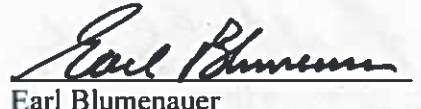
Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



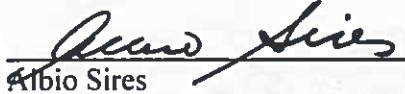
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



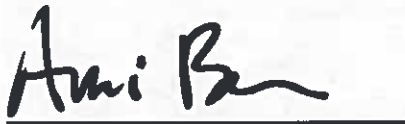
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Joseph D. Morelle
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Al Green
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



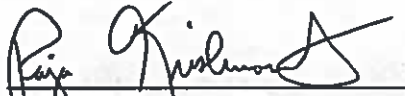
Frederica S. Wilson
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Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



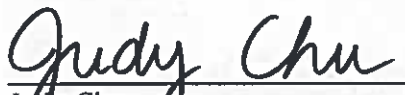
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



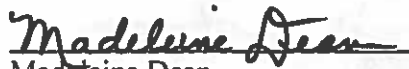
Judy Chu
Member of Congress

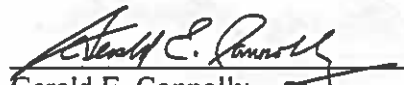


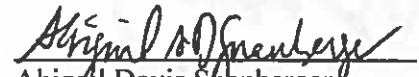
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

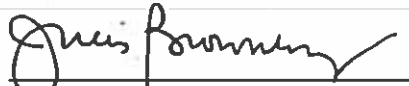


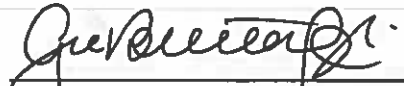
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

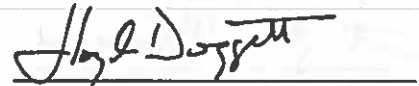

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress


Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

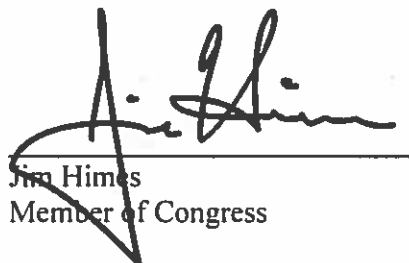

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

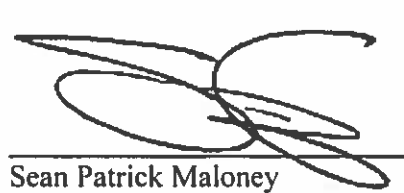

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

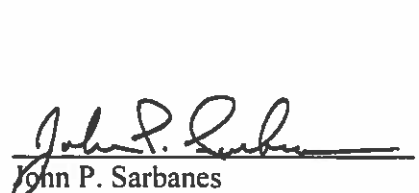

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

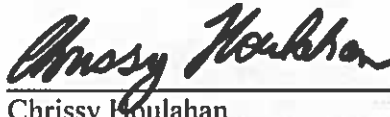

Jim Himes
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

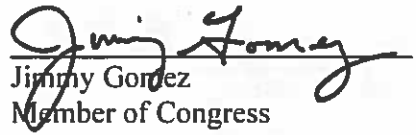

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



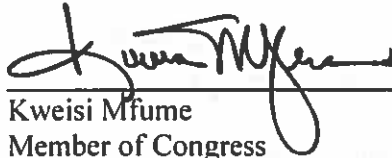
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress